

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 4, 2010. Claims 1 to 8 and 11 to 14 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 11 and 12 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 6, 11, 12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0227647 (Gallacher) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0036790 (Nishiyama) and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0012134 (Calaway) and U.S. Patent No. 7,418,702 (Tsao). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway and Tsao and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0077097 (Parry). Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway, Tsao and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0103885 (Hamada). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

The present claims concern a system that provides a unique user environment to a plurality of users who share usage of the same information and image processing apparatuses. In such a system, an “active session” for a user is one of a plurality of user sessions that allows a user to exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus can simultaneously provide, for each of a plurality of users who simultaneously log-on to an operating system of the information processing apparatus, an

environment, as an independent user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated.

According to one aspect, an active session is specified from among the user sessions for a second user of the plurality of users, different from a first user, when the plurality of users simultaneously log-on to the operating system of the information processing apparatus. The second user can exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus.

According to another aspect, information received regarding the image processing apparatus, the information received being transmitted from the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a first user of the plurality of users activating a first display program, is transmitted to an activated second display program. In response to the transmitting of the received information, the transmitted information is displayed on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the active session through the second display program.

By virtue of the foregoing features, it is ordinarily possible to display the information regarding the image processing device, even though the reception of the information was started by a user session for a different user activating the first display program.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a notifying method of notifying a user of information regarding an image processing apparatus which communicates with an information processing apparatus. The information processing apparatus can simultaneously provide, for each of a plurality of users who simultaneously log-on to an operating system of the information processing

apparatus, an environment, as an independent user session, in which a program desired by the user can be activated. The method includes a print data transmitting step of transmitting print data to the image processing apparatus, and a receiving step of receiving the information regarding the image processing apparatus, the information being transmitted from the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a first user of the plurality of users activating a first display program, wherein the receiving step is started without waiting for a request from the first user. The method further includes a specifying step of specifying an active session from among the user sessions for a second user of the plurality of users, different from the first user, when the plurality of users simultaneously log-on to the operating system of the information processing apparatus, wherein the second user can exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus.

In addition, the method includes an activating step of activating a second display program in order to display the information regarding the image processing apparatus received in the receiving step on the display unit occupied in the active session specified in the specifying step, wherein the second display program is an application which can be activated in the active session for displaying information, and an information transmitting step of, transmitting the information received in the receiving step to the activated second display program activated in the activating step. The method also includes a displaying step of displaying, in response to the information transmitting step transmitting the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the active session through the second display program.

Amended independent Claims 11 and 12 are directed to an apparatus and a computer-readable memory medium, respectively, that substantially correspond to the method of Claim 1.

The applied art, alone or in any permissible combination, is not seen to disclose or suggest all of the features of Claims 1, 11 and 12, and in particular, is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) specifying an active session from among user sessions for a second user of a plurality of users, different from a first user, when the plurality of users simultaneously log-on to an operating system of an information processing apparatus, wherein the second user can exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus, (ii) transmitting information received regarding an image processing apparatus, the information received being transmitted from the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a first user of the plurality of users activating a first display program, to an activated second display program, and (iii) displaying, in response to the transmitting of the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the active session through the second display program.

Gallacher is seen to disclose that once a printer completes printing a print job, an identifier is added to an unretrieved print job queue. Notification messages are sent to a notification recipient while the identifier is in the unretrieved print queue. (See Abstract of Gallacher). In Gallacher, retrieval information such as notification receiver information, alternative notification receiver information, and other notification information can be set in advance. (See, e.g., Figure 5 and paragraphs [0031] and [0032] of

Gallacher). Thus, Gallacher is merely seen to disclose that a receiver of a notification can be specified in advance.

Page 4 of the Office Action concedes that Gallacher does not disclose a situation in which a plurality of users simultaneously log-on to an operating system of a single information processing apparatus. Applicant agrees, and submits that, in view of the amended claim language, Gallacher therefore also cannot disclose or suggest (i) specifying an active session from among user sessions for a second user of a plurality of users, different from a first user, when the plurality of users simultaneously log-on to an operating system of an information processing apparatus, wherein the second user can exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus, (ii) transmitting information received regarding an image processing apparatus, the information received being transmitted from the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a first user of the plurality of users activating a first display program, to an activated second display program, and (iii) displaying, in response to the transmitting of the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the active session through the second display program.

Nishiyama is seen to disclose a method for transmitting status data of a printer to a PC. As shown in step S41 of Figure 12, a status data acquisition command is first sent from the PC to the printer. It is then judged whether a display mode for displaying the status data is a manager mode by checking if a user name and password entered at the PC matches a manager name and password for the printer. (See paragraph [0067] of Nishiyama). However, Nishiyama is not seen to disclose or suggest (i)

specifying an active session from among user sessions for a second user of a plurality of users, different from a first user, when the plurality of users simultaneously log-on to an operating system of an information processing apparatus, wherein the second user can exclusively occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus, (ii) transmitting information received regarding an image processing apparatus, the information received being transmitted from the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a first user of the plurality of users activating a first display program, to an activated second display program, and (iii) displaying, in response to the transmitting of the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the active session through the second display program.

Page 5 of the Office Action asserts that Calaway and Tsao teach having a plurality of users log-on to a single computer/server simultaneously and allowing each user to exclusively occupy a display unit of the computer/server. However, even if it is assumed for the sake of argument, that there is an active session and one other user session in Calaway and Tsao, Calaway and Tsao are silent as to specifying the active session so as to transmit and display information regarding an image processing apparatus, received in a user session of a first user activating a first display program, on a display unit occupied in the active session by a second user through a second display program.

Thus, neither Calaway nor Tsao is seen to disclose or suggest (i) specifying an active session from among user sessions for a second user of a plurality of users, different from a first user, when the plurality of users simultaneously log-on to an operating system of an information processing apparatus, wherein the second user can exclusively

occupy a display unit of the information processing apparatus to operate the information processing apparatus, (ii) transmitting information received regarding an image processing apparatus, the information received being transmitted from the image processing apparatus in one of the user sessions for a first user of the plurality of users activating a first display program, to an activated second display program, and (iii) displaying, in response to the transmitting of the received information, the transmitted information on the display unit of the information processing apparatus occupied in the active session through the second display program.

Parry and Hamada have been reviewed, but are not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Gallacher, Nishiyama, Calaway and Tsao.

Claims 1, 11 and 12 are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied art.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the claims, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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